

Dear Friend –

The following summary highlights several of the major state issues addressed on your behalf by State Senator Kevin Murray, along with some of his more significant legislative accomplishments. The highlights include legislation that Murray authored during his two terms in the state Assembly, as well as his tenure in the Senate. For more information please feel free to call or write to Senator Murray, at either his Capitol or District Office.



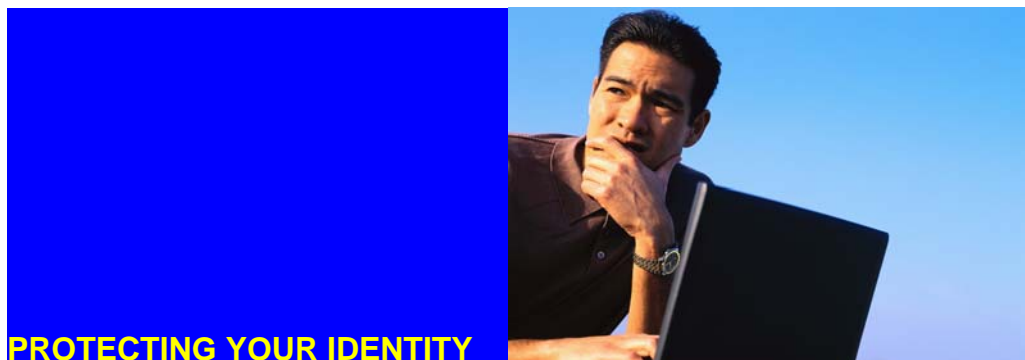
FIGHTING FOR CONSUMERS: PROTECTING PRIVACY AND SAFEGUARDING THE INTERNET

Senator Murray has taken the lead in protecting your home and office computers, by authoring legislation to halt the steady stream of unwanted emails - or SPAM – and end the annoying proliferation of potentially dangerous Spyware programs.

SB 186: *Anti-Spam* – this legislation banned Internet SPAM entirely. Under this law, it is illegal for businesses and individuals to send unsolicited commercial email, it is currently the toughest anti-SPAM law ever passed.

SB 1457: *Falsified and Misleading Spam* - this bill makes it is illegal to send email with falsified or misleading headers.

SB 1436: *'Consumer Protection Against Computer Spyware Act'* - prohibits individuals and businesses from placing malicious spyware on your computer. Spyware are various programs that are put on your computer deceptively and without your knowledge; usually when you visit a web site or download free software. Spyware can record your keystrokes, steal your personal and financial information and track where you go on the Internet.



Protecting your identity is one of Senator Murray's top priorities. In 1997, he authored groundbreaking legislation in the battle against identity theft that established identity theft as a new crime, punishable as a misdemeanor with up to \$1,000 in fines. This first-in-the-nation law helps protect, and get back, your good credit. It allows you to challenge errors and requires creditors to obtain three separate forms of identification before issuing a new credit line. This protects all consumers and makes it more difficult for thieves to falsely obtain credit using someone else's identity.

It was also Sen. Murray's efforts that established a way to assist consumers cleaning-up erroneous credit reports resulting from identity theft. Additionally, his bill requires consumer credit reporting agencies to promptly block the reporting of disputed information and to notify the furnisher of the information, if the consumer submits a valid police report concerning the crime of identity theft.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Tips on preventing identity theft:

- ✓ Release your Social Security Number only when absolutely necessary (tax forms, employment records, and banking, stock and property transactions)
- ✓ Do not carry your Social Security card or number, birth certificate, passport, passwords, or extra credit cards in your purse or wallet.
- ✓ Always take your credit card receipts with you. Tear them up at home once you no longer need them to verify purchases.
- ✓ Order your credit report from each of the three credit bureaus to check for inaccuracies and fraud at least once a year. The numbers for the credit bureaus are as follows: Equifax: 800-685-1111, Experian: 888-397-3742, Trans Union: 800-888-4213



PROTECTION AGAINST ELDER ABUSE

Another legislative priority of Senator Murray is protecting seniors from elder abuse. It is reported that 1 out of every 20 elderly people will be a victim of neglect, or physical, psychological or financial abuse this year. Unfortunately, only 1 in 14 of those cases is ever reported. The elderly represent the fastest growing segment of the population, and those at ages 85 and older are the fastest growing group. By the year 2030, the number of Americans over 65 will represent nearly one-fourth of the population. Armed with these alarming statistics, Sen. Murray began writing laws that increase the protection for our state's elderly from a growing number of threats.

AB 1780: *Elder Abuse Reporting* - which increases reporting and prosecution of elder abuse and dependent adult abuse by enhancing the penalty for failing to report physical abuse, isolation, financial abuse or neglect of an elder.

SB 72: *Elders Financial Abuse* - which requires a lawyer to provide a detailed disclosure statement before the lawyer is able to sell long-term care insurance, life insurance, and certain annuities to any client who was an elder or dependent adult. This bill is designed to protect elderly consumers from falling victim to financial scams.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Whether you are a relative, a professional who works with the elderly, or simply a concerned citizen, it is critical that you become aware of both the obvious and subtle indicators of elder abuse. Because victims are often reluctant to report abuse, an elderly person's well-being may depend on you recognizing and reporting suspected abuse.

Symptoms of elder abuse may include:

- ✓ Physical Indicators: Poor skin condition or hygiene; cuts, pinch marks, skin tears, lacerations or puncture wounds, or unexplained bruises or welts
- ✓ Behavioral Indicators: Hesitation to talk freely, confused, withdrawn, depressed, helpless, angry
- ✓ Caregiver Warning Indicators: Caregiver asks only financial questions; level of care needed by the elder is beyond the ability of the caregiver; caregiver has problems with alcohol or drugs, or demonstrates anger or aggression toward elders

If you suspect that a loved one is a victim of abuse you should report it immediately to Adult Protective Services at 877-477-3646, or to your local law enforcement official.



With recent developments in genetic research, great strides are being made to further understand our complex genetic information and how genetic traits are related to disability and disease. While this opens an exciting frontier for prevention, no one should be subject to discrimination based upon their genetic characteristics.

SB 200: Ensures that health insurance providers cannot require genetic testing results to determine whether to deny that person health coverage.

Senator Murray has also been instrumental in fighting for women's health issues.

AB 2438: *Prenatal Diagnostic Testing* - required every health plan that provides maternity benefits to include coverage for the Expanded Alpha Feto Protein (AFP) program. The AFP is a program that tests the fetus for Spina Bifida, Down's syndrome, and Turner's syndrome.

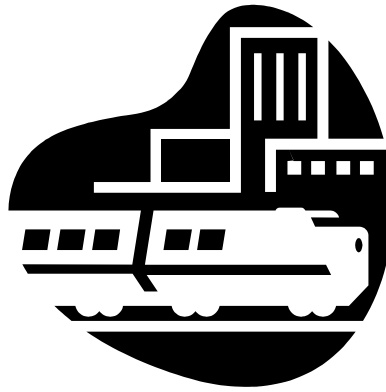
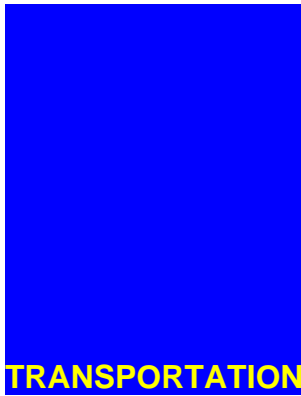


One of Senator Murray's top legislative priorities is to ensure family recreational opportunities, to beautify our communities, and to improve our quality of life. He was instrumental in crafting two significant bond measures that were approved by California voters and provided \$4.6 billion for state and local parks programs.

Proposition 40: *Murray-Hayden Parks and Youth Service Program* - Providing millions of dollars, this program was a landmark beginning in recognizing the need and benefit of urban parks, youth facilities, and programs for at-risk youth in inner-city communities.

Proposition 12: *California Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Act of 2000* - this measure provides \$ 2.1 billion in funding to protect rivers, lakes, and streams to improve water quality and ensure clean drinking water. It helps protect beaches and coastal areas threatened by pollution; improve air quality; preserves open space and farmland threatened by unplanned development; protects wildlife habitat and restores historical and cultural resources. In addition, this provides funding to repair and improve safety of state, urban and neighborhood parks; and for the creation of youth soccer and baseball/softball fields.

SB 359 - *California State Urban Parks and Healthy Communities Act* – provides millions of dollars in funds to assist groups throughout the state to create safe places for our youth to play soccer, baseball, basketball and other recreational activities. This act allows to local school districts, park districts and community-based organizations to use state and local parks as classrooms to teach children about California's rich heritage of cultural diversity and its historical roots, biological networks and ecological systems.



As Chair of the Senate Transportation Committee, Senator Murray was responsible for all legislation relating to the operation, safety, equipment, transfer of ownership, licensing and registration of vehicles, aircraft and vessels. The committee also addresses legislation affecting the Department of Transportation and the Department of Motor Vehicles, and legislation relating to waterways, harbors, highways, public transportation systems and airports. Below are a few of his most notable transportation bills:

SB 314: *Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Ordinance* - authorized the Los Angeles County MTA to submit an ordinance to voters allowing them to decide whether to fund specific transportation projects. If approved by the voters, the ordinance will fund projects such as the Exposition Boulevard Light Rail Transit Project and the Metro Gold Line Light Rail Transit Extension.

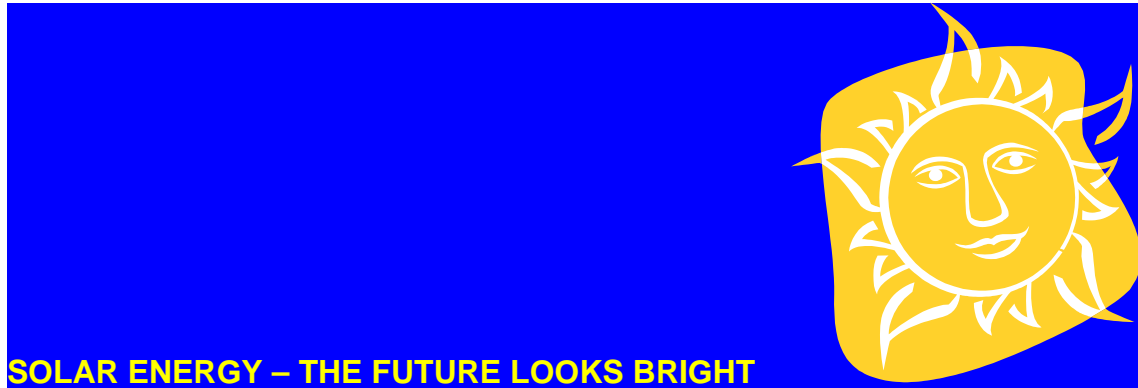
SB 1085: *Infrared Transmitters* - this law strengthens the prohibitions on traffic signal light override devices; prohibits the purchase, possession, manufacture, installation and distribution of these devices and sets a fine of up to \$5,000 for violations of the restrictions. While these are only legal when used by emergency personnel, these devices were being sold over the Internet allowing anyone to control and change traffic signal lights.

SB 1257: *Transportation of Hazardous Materials* - strengthens and improves the requirements for transporting hazardous materials. These new requirements include: hazardous materials must be contained in a locked enclosed cargo bay, and requires regular CHP inspections to verify that the driver is, in fact, the lawful operator and that the trucks are have two-way communications capability.

SB 1856: *Safe, Reliable High-Speed Passenger Train Bond Act for the 21st Century* - authorizes the placement of a \$9.95 billion bond on the ballot to fund the construction of a high-speed passenger train system, which will move people between Los Angeles and San Francisco in two hours. The system will ultimately connect south to San Diego and north to Sacramento.

ACA 4: *Gas Tax Revenues* - placed Proposition 42 on the March 2002 ballot requiring that revenues collected from the state sales tax on gasoline be used solely for transportation purposes, protecting transportation revenues.

AB 2597: *Truckers: Driving While Under the Influence* - establishes the California Drug-Free Commercial Truck and Bus Driver Task Force to study and recommend means toward closing the identified loopholes in drug and alcohol testing of commercial truck and bus drivers. This would promote the state's "zero tolerance" policy for drug and alcohol use by individuals in safety-sensitive occupations.



In keeping with Sen. Murray's tradition of pioneering legislation, he insists that California has an obligation to utilize and promote the use of clean, and environmentally sound, solar energy.

SBX2 82: *Solar on State Buildings* - that mandates the installation of solar energy systems on state buildings and parking facilities. This bill not only promotes the expansion of solar energy, but also establishes government facilities as positive models for reducing our dependence on non-renewable sources of energy.

Senator Murray, this year, has introduced SB 1: "One Million Solar Roofs Initiative". The goal is to establish a program that will ensure the installation of solar energy systems on one million homes in California over the next ten years. With full implementation, this could save California 2700 megawatts of peaking power, equal to the output of at least one dozen polluting power plants, and offset more than 50 million tons of CO₂ and NO_x that cause global warming and health problems.



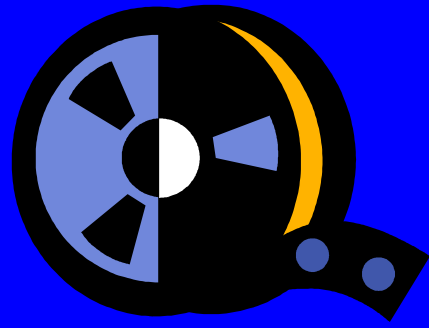
EDUCATION

Another of Sen. Murray's areas of concern is education. Over the years, he has authored legislation that will have an impact on both K-12 and higher education in California.

SB 1390: *K-12 Education Arts in the Curriculum* - to require the State Board of Education to adopt content standards in the curriculum area of visual and performing arts. The University of California and California State University systems, beginning in 2003, are mandating one course of visual or performing arts in their admission requirements.

SB 892: *Clean School Restrooms* - requires restroom facilities in our public schools to be open while pupils are in school, stocked with toilet paper, soap, paper towels, and maintained and cleaned on a regular basis. Senator Murray authored and passed this law, after learning about some of the horrid conditions of bathrooms in our public schools and finding out that the State had no standards for school restrooms.

Senator Murray was also a key member of the **Joint Committee to Develop a Master Plan for Education**. The committee has completed its goal to implement a coherent, coordinated policy for the state's public schools, colleges, and universities and to forge a much needed connection between K-12 and higher education policies. They formed seven working groups to address issues relative to the reform of California's public education: governance; finance and facilities; school readiness; professional personnel development; student learning; workforce preparation and business linkages; and emerging modes of delivery, certification, and planning. For the final report visit this site: <http://www.wascweb.org/senior/MasterEducationCA.PDF>



BUSINESS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Representing a unique portion of Hollywood, Senator Murray knows how vital the health of our entertainment industry is to California's economy. Here are some of the bills he's written to help ensure that California remains the entertainment capitol of the world:

SB 1032: *Piracy* - makes it illegal to videotape movies while in the theater. This is essential to protecting our film industry, which loses an estimated \$3 billion annually from picture piracy alone.

SB 1034: *Artists' Rights* - gives recording artists the right to audit the recording companies that employ them. For years, artists were not able to obtain verified financial information about their album sales. These royalties determine whether or not an artist qualifies for healthcare or a pension. Contrary to what is usually assumed, the overwhelming majority of recording artists barely make enough to make ends meet.

SB 1506: *Piracy* - updated California law by requiring anyone disseminating copyrighted materials over the Internet to include their valid email address. This law helps prevent individuals from disseminating commercial works that are not their property, and protects the consumer's right to know whether or not the movie or music files are legitimate or counterfeited.



PUBLIC SAFETY

Public safety continues to be one of his top priorities. In an effort to ensure the safety of our families, Senator Murray authored the following legislation:

AB 1201: *Domestic Violence: Referral to Shelters* - provides victims of domestic violence with vital information on available counseling and shelter services within their communities, as well as, how to get information regarding the California Victims Compensation Program, which provides monetary reimbursement to victims of crime.

AB 1332: *DNA and Forensic ID Data Base Act of 1998* - requires registered sex offenders and persons who have been convicted of, or pled no contest to, committing other violent felonies, to provide DNA samples that will be maintained in a DNA bank by the Department of Justice. This will allow the State's DNA data bank to serve as a more effective aid for identifying, apprehending and prosecuting criminal suspects, linking unsolved crimes, solving past crimes, and exonerating the innocent.

AB 2006: *Harassment: Restraining Orders* - helps protect victims of domestic violence by allowing a law enforcement official at the scene of a reported harassment to instantly grant a temporary restraining order. In addition, the bill allows a law enforcement official to enforce a restraining order even if the victim cannot immediately produce a copy of the proof of service.



As the ranking member and Chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, Senator Murray believes that it is imperative that we protect the civil rights of all Californians.

SB 1102: *Racial Profiling: law enforcement training* - defined racial profiling and made it illegal. This requires police officers to go through expanded training focusing on the practice, protocols and the prevention of racial profiling.

AB 51: *Crimes: Places of Worship* - included places of worship as one of the types of properties in the hate crimes enhancement portion of California code. This allows for more severe punishment and penalty if a crime is committed against a place of worship, such as a church or synagogue.

AB 2057: *Crimes: Places of Worship* - authorized the Governor to offer a reward of up to \$100,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a person who commits arson upon a place of worship.

Together these bills have helped to deter violence toward, and destruction of, places of worship in California.



THE NEXT DECADE

What's in store for the 2005-2006 legislative session? Senator Murray is developing legislation that would: resume his efforts to greatly expanding the availability of solar power in California; help local government find funding for revenue-generating sports arenas; give absentee voters more protections; create new penalties for those who violate spyware and SPAM laws; offer incentives to halt the out-of-state flow of film production jobs, and much more. We will keep you posted as these measures, and more, make their way through the legislative process.

For more information on my more significant bills this session, click [here](#)

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